



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
P.O. Box 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

Foley and Lardner  
Suite 500  
3000 K Street NW  
Washington, DC 20007

MAILED

JUL 12 2004

Office of the Director  
Group 3600

In re application of  
Erick B. Knezek  
Application No. 10/621,655  
Filed: July 18, 2003  
For: PROTECTION BARRIER APPARATUS

: DECISION ON PETITION  
: TO MAKE SPECIAL  
: (COUNTER TERRORISM)

This is in response to the petition filed on July 18, 2003 to make the above-identified application special on the basis of inventions for countering terrorism as set forth in MPEP § 708.02 XI. The delay in deciding this petition is regretted.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The requirements for granting special status under this section are: (A) a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i); and (B) a statement explaining how the invention contributes to countering terrorism.

Applicant's petition explains that the invention is directed to a protection barrier system for countering waterborne terrorist acts due to high speed boats or other types of watercraft attempting to penetrate a particular region in a body of water or abutting a body of water. Additionally, the invention falls into one of the types of inventions contemplated by MPEP § 708.02 XI (i.e., vehicular barricades/disabling systems).

Since all of the requirements for special status under MPEP § 708.02 XI have been met, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

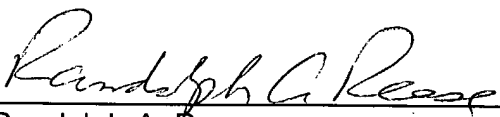
Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if petitioner makes a prompt *bona fide* effort, in response to each Office action, to place the

Best Available Copy

Best Available Copy

application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

**SUMMARY:** Petition to Make Special **GRANTED.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randolph A. Reese  
Special Programs Examiner  
Technology Center 3600  
(703) 308-2121

RAR/vdb: 7/8/04

Best Available Copy